



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



JULY 29, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I want to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Missoula WFO during the week of July 21. The office experienced a high volume of severe weather that week, and fire weather activity increased substantially. There were approximately fifteen large fires burning in Missoula's fire weather area during the week. Extreme fire behavior with 200-300 foot flame lengths were observed from a few of these fires, and numerous residences and communities were threatened.

Missoula provided fire weather customer service by conducting daily fire weather briefings via conference call and the Internet to area fire managers. Also, six IMETs were dispatched to fires in their fire weather district, and the office conducted daily coordination calls between the IMETs, Larry Van Bussum in Boise, and Western Region MSD. Missoula dispatched both of their IMETs to fires, and the WFO is currently supporting an Area Command Team. The office issued 40 spot forecasts, fire weather watches for 13 zones, and red flag warnings for 15 zones during the past week.

At the week's end, significant moisture spread across southwest Montana causing local areas of flash flooding and road washouts. The office issued a flash flood watch the morning of July 26 which was in effect throughout the day. The watch was followed by a flash flood warning during the afternoon.

I am certain the team work of the entire Missoula staff contributed to the success of the office during a very busy weather week. Major fires were erupting and communities evacuated, which was followed later in the week by heavy rain and flash flooding. The office did not sacrifice any products or services. In fact, they added services to meet the mission of protection of life and property. Missoula - keep up the good work!

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Kudos to WFO Portland: On July 21, Tyree Wilde and Tiffani Hull, of WFO Portland, gave a presentation on marine weather hazards at a meeting of the Columbia River Bar Pilots. During the meeting, the subject of the Astoria office closure and the service WFO Portland provides to the Bar Pilots came up. The Bar Pilots said they were initially apprehensive about losing the service they were accustomed to when the Astoria weather office closed, but WFO Portland had promised that service would not be degraded.

During the meeting, the Bar Pilots said that not only had WFO Portland lived up to their

promise of no degradation in service, but that they exceeded their expectations. The Bar Pilots are very appreciative of the products and services provided by WFO Portland and the professionalism that is exhibited. They specifically mentioned the phone calls made to inform them of expected hazardous weather conditions. They couldn't safely do their job without WFO Portland's help and expertise.

A word from the Bar Pilots to all forecasters: Keep up the good work, and keep those telephone calls coming!

Great job Portland!



Sherrie, caught in mid-swing, helps to clear some aspen trees that have grown since the Chocolate Gulch SNOTEL installation in 1993.

WFO Pocatello SH works with NRCS Surveyors:

Sherrie Hebert, Pocatello Service Hydrologist, recently spent the day helping some snow survey folks from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) install snowdepth and soil moisture sensors near Sun Valley, Idaho. The USDA's NRCS snow survey program is a combination of manual and automated processes, which provide crucial snow depth and water equivalent data to help determine streamflow potential and water supply for the western US. The automated process began in 1977 when a network of snowpack telemetry (SNOTEL) data sites were installed to provide more frequent information from the survey sites. Sherrie's main task was to help dig some trenches and holes for the new snow depth and soil moisture equipment, as well as clearing some aspen trees that have grown since the sites installation in 1993.

To learn more about the Idaho SNOTEL program, you can visit their web site at:

<http://idsnow.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>.



(l to r) Steve Johnson presents the NOAA Weather Radio to Nick Foster.

Lightning Safety Awareness Winner Receives NOAA Weather Radio:

On July 29, WFO San Joaquin Valley staff members participated in a ceremony in which Steve Johnson, of Steve Johnson and Associates, presented a NOAA Weather Radio to Nick Foster. Nick is the winner of an on-web questionnaire that was given on "Lightning Safety Awareness and WFO San Joaquin Valley Website Navigation". His name was selected from among those who answered all 20 questions correctly to receive this award. The ceremony was held at a local restaurant. Present at the ceremony was RD Vickie Nadolski, MIC Steve Mendenhall, and many of the WFO staff. Nick and his wife, Leslie, were hosted by the office staff as part of the recognition for Lightning Safety Awareness.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's statement of the week is a daily summary of the significant weather and warnings/advisories issued by WFO Flagstaff. This is an excellent method of keeping the public informed as to the extent of significant weather in the area. Great work WFO Flagstaff!

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PNSFGZ

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
1130 PM MST SUN JUL 20 2003

...STRONG THUNDERSTORMS DEVELOPED OVER PORTIONS OF CENTRAL ARIZONA THIS AFTERNOON...

A VERY MOIST AND HOT AIR MASS COMBINED TO PRODUCED STRONG THUNDERSTORMS TODAY. ALTHOUGH STORM ACTIVITY WAS SPREAD OVER MUCH OF THE AREA TODAY...THE MAJORITY OF THE STORMS OCCURRED OVER THE MOGOLLON RIM...AND THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN FLAGSTAFF ISSUED TWO (2) SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS AND ONE URBAN AND SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY THIS AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST WARNING WAS ISSUED AT 254 PM MST FOR A THUNDERSTORM LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF CHERRY. THIS STORM MOVED TO SOUTHWEST AND WEAKENED. THE WARNING WAS ALLOWED TO EXPIRE AT 355 PM MST. THE STORM MOVED INTO AN ISOLATED AREA AND NO REPORTS OF SEVERE WEATHER WERE RECEIVED.

THE SECOND WARNING WAS ISSUED AT 510 PM MST FOR A STORM LOCATED 17 MILES NORTHWEST OF SPRINGERVILLE. THE STORM PRODUCED PEA SIZE HAIL AND ONE INCH OF RAIN IN A 15 MINUTE PERIOD IN THE VERNON AREA. THE WARNING WAS ALLOWED TO EXPIRE AT 550 PM MST.

AT 645 OM MST AN URBAN AND SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY WAS ISSUE FOR THE AREA AROUND SNOWFLAKE. LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL REPORTED FLOODING DUE TO STRONG THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AREA. THIS ADVISORY WAS CANCELED AT 815 PM AS NO FURTHER REPORTS OF FLOODING WERE RECEIVED.

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SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

HEADS UP - WR IFPS Workshop This October: The week of October 20, 2003, has been designated for a WR IFPS workshop in Boulder CO. This workshop is for IFPS focal points and will concentrate on updating all on the latest happenings, tools, policies, and procedures in the IFPS world. More information on the workshop will be forwarded later this summer.

Technical Attachments 2003: Several Technical Attachments are available for your viewing and education on the Western Region home page at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov> under On-Line Publications. Here's the current 2003 list:

- C THE WESTERN REGION GRIDDED VERIFICATION SYSTEM
by Chris Jordan and Kirby Cook
- C THE MATCHOBSALL ANALYSIS SYSTEM
by Todd Foisy
- C WESTERN REGION IFPS VERIFICATION AND ANALYSIS PACKAGE
by Andy Edman
- C ANALYSIS OF A HEAVY SNOW EVENT OVER EAST CENTRAL NEVADA
USING THE WEATHER EVENT SIMULATOR (WES)
by Steven L. Apfel
- C A LOW LEVEL BLOCKING RIDGE ALONG WITH DOWNWARD MOTION
ALOFT IN THE RIGHT FRONT QUADRANT OF THE UPPER LEVEL JET - A
RECIPE FOR MINOR FLOODING AND HIGH WINDS
by Ivory J. Small and Joseph Dandrea
- C HIGH WIND AND WAVE EVENTS ALONG THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
COAST DURING SUMMER
by Jeff Lorens
- C IFPS SERVER/DIRECTORY DOCUMENTATION
by Shelby Sharples
- C TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION VARIATIONS FOR TWO SLOPE AND
VALLEY LOCATIONS IN NORTHEAST NEVADA 1998-2002
by Steven L. Apfel and Brian Fehn

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

IT Security Reviews: Last week, Gerald Singleton, assistant NWS ITSO in the Office of the CIO, completed IT Security reviews at WRH, WFO Salt Lake City, and the Colorado Basin RFC. The reviews went well and action items are being completed.

NWS Enterprise Architecture: NWSH held training sessions on a new application they acquired to document the current NWS IT enterprise architecture and target architecture. Jeff Walker, SOD, attended the two day training, which was held at the NWS Training Center in Kansas City. The application, called Metis, is an enterprise architecture modeling tool that other agencies have used successfully to document their current and future IT architectures.

A/C Unit at KHNX: The A/C units at KHNX radar, WFO San Joaquin, was not able to keep up with the heat wave that occurred in the later days of July. RMS Son Nguyen worked with Engineering Technician Lee Jenson to provide a portable A/C unit to the site to provide additional cooling.